



GPTN

GREAT PLAINS TRAILS NETWORK

WINTER 2025

ISSUE 157

Another Step Closer to the MoPac Connection



LOWER PLATTE SOUTH
natural resources district



This past November the MoPac Trail made significant progress in its goal to close a gap connecting the trail between Nebraska's two largest cities, Lincoln and Omaha. This has been a long awaited trail connection for hikers, runners, cyclists and Nebraska's trails organizations.

The Lower Platte South Natural Resources District (LPSNRD) Board of Directors held its monthly meeting on November 20th, which included the Connect MoPac project. After several public input meetings over the past year the proposed routes had been narrowed down to four possibilities. The Board approved the recommended Alignment D route for the MoPac East Connector Trail, marking a major milestone in the project. This decision follows the approval by the Cass County Board of Commissioners earlier this month on November 5th, concluding a year-long study evaluating potential routes.

According to LPSNRD, the chosen route, Alignment D (334th Street), was selected for its efficient use of existing public right-of-way and enhanced safety features by decreasing crossings and reducing driveway interactions. The route also minimizes its impact on residents. Though, the chosen 10 miles route was favorable to most, there were some homeowners who felt the location of the trail in front of their home would devalue their property and invade their privacy. The overall feeling remained that the connecting trail would benefit the surrounding areas both recreationally and economically. The LPSNRD Board voted



The approved Alignment D Connection path.

14-4 in favor of the route D proposal.

This pivotal decision allows the project to progress to its next phase: design and engineering. LPSNRD plans to hire an engineering consultant by early 2025, with trail construction slated to begin in 2026. The anticipated completion and opening of the trail are set for 2028. Once completed, the new connector will link the existing MoPac East Trail near Elmwood/Wabash to the Lied Platte River Bridge, providing a significant recreational and transportation asset to the region.

As reported on Nebraska Public Media, Julie Harris, the executive director of Bike

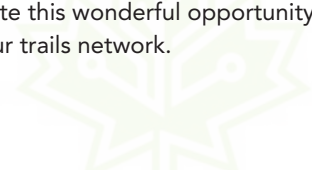
Walk Nebraska, said it's a very exciting step. "This is a big day for us," she said. "This has been a long time coming for connectivity, for trails, for health and wellness, for the economic impact of the small towns in Cass County."

It is also another piece in the nationwide coast to coast trail project called the Great American Rail Trail.

This is a project that was part of GPTN's founder Elaine Hammer's original trail vision. As former GPTN President, Karen Griffin testified at the LPSNRD board meeting, "I am here in support of the proposed MoPac East Connection from Wabash to the Lied Platte River Bridge. I am standing in for my parents, Bill and Sheila Griffin, who had enough foresight and vision to sign a loan (along with some other great trail supporters in this room) to purchase the original MoPac Trail in 1990. If they were still here, they would be thrilled to see the trail completed on the proposed route."

The Nebraska Legislature had allocated \$8 million to the trail connection project in 2022. In the process of choosing a route and today's rising costs the project is now estimated around \$15 million to complete. The remaining funds will need to be raised by grants and donations.

Now it's time for us to roll up our sleeves and get to work raising the needed funds to complete this wonderful opportunity to expand our trails network.





President's Note

Hello Trail Advocates,

I'm now wrapping up my two-year term as the president. This includes readying our new president and vice president for their upcoming leadership roles. I have joked with other board members that writing this article for our newsletter has been my toughest task as president. Writing has never come easy for me as a young student and now as a professional. I will not miss the painful task of writing this piece each quarter, but I will miss the opportunity to provide leadership within this organization. Of course, the task of providing direction to the board is much easier when you are surrounded by talented board members who are passionate about service and our trail system.

A lot has happened during these last two years. In my first year, we completed the multi-year task of transitioning to a 501(c)(3). Of course, I thought this would be completed before I became president and I would not have to worry about the details of new by-laws, committees and investments. Again, working with a very talented board, I'm happy to say we are in a very good spot financially, and having the checks and balances in place to move forward as a fundraising and advocacy organization.

The highlight of my second year has to be the monumental steps to complete the MoPac Gap trail between Lincoln and Omaha. We cannot forget that this organization exists because of the MoPac Trail. Our founding board members bought this railbed and deeded the land to the Lower Platte South NRD. The Lower Platte South has been a great partner in creating and maintaining the MoPac Trail. We have many obstacles ahead, but we can now say we have an intra-local agreement in place to use Cass County right of way to build the trail. The next step is to create the final design and bid the project to see how much money we will have to raise to construct the trail. Again, this would not have been possible without dedicated board members who serve on the MoPac Gap Alliance, providing leadership to see this project through to the finish.

I will be done serving as president in February, but I'm not done serving on the board. I'm more energized now than when I began my term as president. I'm excited to continue to serve on our board and continue to improve our trails system.

See you on the trails,
Jordan Messerer



Great Plains Trails Network

Since 1988

*dedicated to the goal of developing
a network of commuter and
recreational trails within
Lincoln and Lancaster County*

2024

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Secretary: Rachelle Hadley

Treasurer: Roy Rivera

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Lincoln, NE 68501-2902

www.GPTN.org

Newsletter comments, questions, corrections:
dalegptn@gmail.com



BY MARY TORELL

2025 GPTN Annual Meeting

Please be sure and Save the Date for the 36th Annual Meeting of the Great Plains Trails Network. The meeting will be held Saturday, February 8, 2025 at 1:00 p.m. at Cornhusker Bank in their Community Room at 8310 O Street (84th & O) in Lincoln. (Enter on the north

side of the building). The public is invited.

We look forward to hearing Allison Speicher, Trails and Natural Resources Coordinator for Lincoln Parks and Recreation, give a comprehensive report on current projects, and what trail items are on the horizon in the near future. Will Inselman, Resources Coordinator for the Lower Platte South Natural

Resources District, will discuss the progress on the MoPac Trail East Connection Project.

Lincoln's trails system now consists of 184 miles of trails, which connect to rural routes that add another 100 miles between northern Kansas and the Omaha area. And there are additional miles of dirt and mowed trails in wilderness and natural areas.

Following the presentation, the GPTN's annual awards program and election of the 2025 Board of Directors will take place. Refreshments will be provided.

For more information about the annual meeting, or the Great Plains Trails Network, contact Mary Torell at **402-429-5753**, or visit our website at **GPTN.org**.

Hot off the Press!

BY GARY BENTRUP

The newly updated GPTN Trails Map is now available! GPTN's detailed, street-level map was first released in 2012 and the last version was completed in 2020. Revising the map involves a comprehensive process with the City of Lincoln and other partners to ensure the map reflects the current status of our trails. The 2024 version showcases the trail work that has been done over the last four years including the completion of the GPTN Connector Bridge by Densmore Park, trail changes in Wilderness Park, and updates to the on-street bike lanes and routes.

The map includes a dedicated panel on the Prairie Corridor on Haines Branch. This 10-mile tallgrass prairie greenway will build upon our nationally recognized trails system, linking Pioneers Park Nature Center to the Spring Creek Prairie Audubon Center. Please consider donating to this multigenerational trail project (see back panel of newsletter). This trail will enhance the connectivity of our existing network, while promoting active, healthy lifestyles and economic vitality in Lincoln.

A number of exciting trail projects are getting closer to construction such as the Chris Beutler Trail and the Helen Boosalis Trail from 56th to Yankee Hill Road. Estimated completion dates are shown on the map.

The 2024 GPTN Trails Maps are available at the Lincoln Parks and Recreation office, Lincoln Visitors Center, UNL Outdoor Recreation, and at most bike

shops and running shoe stores. Friends of Wilderness Park and partners have also released a map dedicated to Wilderness Park which is available at the locations listed below.

GPTN would like to thank our sponsors whose generous support helps offset the printing costs. Platinum sponsors include Complete Family Dermatology, Fleet Feet, GPTN, Lancaster County Medical Society, Lincoln Running Company, Lincoln Track Club, OneHealth Nebraska, Sandhills Global, and Screen Ink. Gold sponsors include Mary Jo and Greg Gillespie, Scheels, Speedy Pete's E-Bikes, The Wild Bird Habitat Store, University of Nebraska Federal Credit Union, and Visit Lincoln.



Wilderness Park Trail Maps are available at:

- The Lincoln Parks and Rec Office - 3131 O St #300
- Lincoln Running Co. - 1213 Q St
- Outdoor Solutions - 10901 S 14th St
- Wilderness Kennels - 2030 Saltillo Rd

Currently raising funds for dispensers in Wilderness Park. Ultimately, there will be 8 dispensers throughout the park for the public to use.

HUB & SOUL: Season Finale

BY KERRY EAGAN

The final show of the 2024 Hub & Soul concert series took place on September 27th. The entertainment was spectacular, with performances by Hot Dealers and Rascal Matinez. The weather started out as perfect and then got better. By the end of the show Rascal Matinez had everyone dancing. The crowd called out for more.

As in past years, the Great Plains Trails Network was presented with a mock check in the amount of \$10,000, signifying how much money was raised on behalf of GPTN during the 2024 Hub & Soul season.

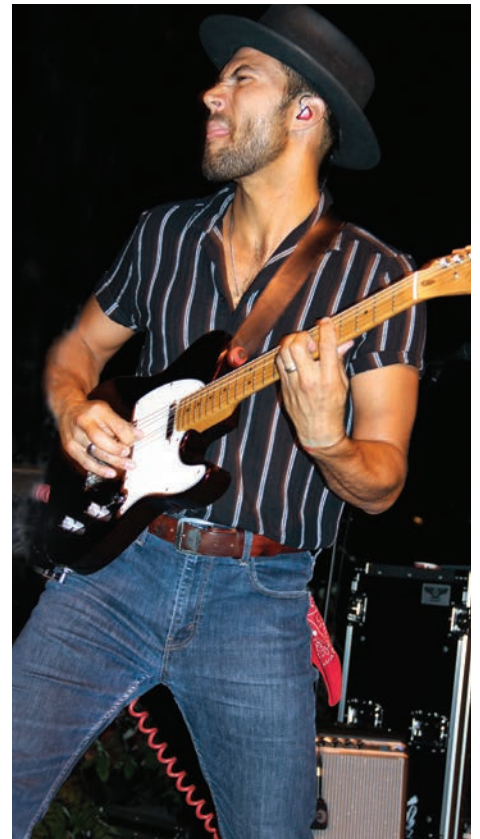
2024 marks the second year Jake Thiessen and Crystal Bock Thiessen, as owners of The Hub Café, have hosted the Hub & Soul event. By all accounts this year's series was a huge success. The GPTN Board wishes to thank all the Hub employees, Eleanor Creative and GPTN volunteers who make this event possible, with a special thanks to Jake and Crystal. The GPTN Board looks forward to working with the Hub Café in the future to continue the success of Hub & Soul.



On a beautiful Nebraska Fall evening the Hot Dealers kick off the Hub & Soul 2024 finale!



L to R: GPTN's John Mlinar, Dena Noe and Jordan Messerer receive the donation check from Randy Gordon and Mackenzie Slivka at the September concert.



Rascal Martinez has the crowd twisting and shouting!

Thank You - 2024 Partners/Sponsors



A big **Thank You** to the private donors who collectively donated \$5,000:

Doug and Carla Dittman

Rich and Susan Rodenburg

Jim and Denise Peter

2024 Market to Market Relay

BY DENA NOE

I've lost count of the number of times I've volunteered at the Market to Market Relay, but recently Ben Cohoon, visionary behind the Pink Gorilla brand, noted in his blog that this was the 17th running of the Market to Market Relay Nebraska. This is amazing when you think of all the work and effort that goes into putting on an event of this scale.

The unique element to Pink Gorilla is their model to give back to the organizations that give of their time and talent to the race. Over the years members of the GPTN board have brought groups together to volunteer at exchange points, the hydration booth at the after party and Dale Arp, former GPTN board member and awesome Trail Trek committee member, worked as an exchange point coordinator and as always wore many more hats for the event over the years. Because of this GPTN has received a check every year from Pink Gorilla. These checks have helped us build more trails in Lincoln. In addition, GPTN is the chosen charity for the Market to Market Relay

with our logo gracing the event pages.

After this year's Market to Market Relay Ben wrote in his blog, "Behind every successful relay is a dedicated team of volunteers and event directors who ensure everything runs smoothly. Their hard work often goes unnoticed, but their contributions are vital. Their commitment reflects the true spirit of community, reminding us that we're all in this together."

Ben also mentioned in his blog that the event brings joy and laughter. The volunteer group from GPTN always has a fun time. The work isn't easy...lots of lifting, running around and at the end of the day pure exhaustion, but when you get to put the medal around the necks of the runners as they finish, it makes the effort all worth it. The runners are so excited to cross the finish line and are so appreciative of our efforts to be there to cheer them in. The day is electric and as I reflect on my years of volunteering, I forget about the hard work and instead think about how grateful I am for the friends who help every year. They don't hesitate to say yes when I ask them to volunteer. Each volunteer gives



L-R Marynelle Greene, Dena Noe, Bryony Calvillo and Elly Hardekopf at the ready to hand out medals as participants cross the finish line.

100% and I'm amazed every time at their dedication to making things just right for the runners. They know events like Market to Market make Lincoln and Nebraska the Good Life and we wouldn't want to live in any other place!

Thank you to our 2024 M2M volunteers: Catherine Nixon, Rainy Nixon, Julie Moore, Kim Clouston, Marlene Swanson, Al Koontz, Tammy Green, Ben Green, Elly Hardekopf, Carla Steadman, Marynelle Greene, Karen Knapp, Dale Minter, Martha Stoddard, Sven Noe, Paul Breitkreutz, Bryony Calvillo, Guillermo Calvillo, Tedde Taege, and Colin Keierleber.



GRAND OPENING AND OPEN HOUSE

BY KERRY EAGAN

On October 10, 2024, the Lincoln Bike Kitchen cut the ribbon and held an open house for its new location in the old City Municipal Building at 308 S. 21st Street in the Telegraph District. Mayor Leirion Gaylor

Baird gave the keynote address to a large crowd which gathered for the event. Several members of the Great Plains Trails Network Board were in attendance.

The Muny Building is ideal for the Bike Kitchen. The building is centrally located in Lincoln

where most of its clients live. It is adjacent to the popular Rock Island Trail and a nearby bus route provides easy access for clients and volunteers. With 4400 sq. ft., the building is large enough to create an efficient workflow, from initial

acceptance of donated bikes in a new warehouse, to state-of-the-art mechanic stations, to final distribution. In the process, the Lincoln Bike Kitchen brings new life to an old Lincoln landmark, the Muny Pool. Welcome to the neighborhood.



Volunteer staff give shop tours during grand opening and open house.



Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird and former Mayor Chris Beutler cut the ribbon for grand opening.



New facility has expanded area for donated bikes waiting for service and a new owner.

Scheels donation helps expand the trails system



Back L to R - Mary Torell, Marynelle Greene, Rachele Hadley, Jordan Messerer, Dale Minter, Colin Keierleber and Dena Noe from GPTN. Front L to R - Garrett Kurtzer, Tanner Vanek and Melony Fiala from Scheels.

A group of GPTN board members gathered to thank Scheels employees for donating \$2000 to the trails. This thoughtful contribution not only showcases the spirit of giving that Scheels fosters among its staff—who are empowered to donate \$500 each to charities of their choice—but also demonstrates the employee’s commitment to the health and well-being of the Lincoln community. We are happy they thought of the trails. Thanks to Scheels and other corporate partners like them, we can continue to expand and improve our trails system for everyone to enjoy.

Refreshing MoPac Signage



Photo by Jason Buss

BY COREY GODFREY The MoPac mile marker refresh was supported by two grants. One from the Rails to Trails Conservancy and the other from the Eastern Nebraska Trails Network. Both grants were awarded to Bike Walk Nebraska which held the funds until the project began. The markers are every half mile (formerly every mile) and begin with mile 0 at the MoPac Trailhead on 84th Street. The markers go to the Wabash Trailhead (near mile 21.5). Once the MoPac Gap is completed, additional mile markers will be installed all the way to the Lied Bridge. The markers are reflective and low horizontal profile for ease of mowing. Thanks to the City of Lincoln, the Lower Platte South NRD, the Rails to Trails Conservancy, Bike Walk Nebraska, Nebraska Trails Foundation, Great Plains Trails Network and many volunteers for the assistance with the project.



LEARN TO RIDE PROGRAM



BY CATHY EBERS

On September 5, 2024, I had the privilege to join others in participating in instructor training and a follow-up class for a Learn to Ride bike class through Bike Walk Nebraska. The Learn to Ride class is a free two hour class for teens (15 and older) and adults who are eager to learn or relearn how to ride a bicycle. Classes are designed to teach you how to ride a bicycle including balancing, steering, braking and pedalling. The class provides all

the materials necessary including helmets if the participant does not have one.

The first two classes in Lincoln were held on September 5th and October 6th, but have ended for the year due to the increasing cold weather. Lincoln and Omaha classes are held in partnerships with local organizations: Lincoln with UNL Outdoor Adventures Center and Omaha with Riverfront. These organizations will work together in the spring to plan out dates and classes for the 2025 season. Information on future classes can be found on the Bike Walk Nebraska website when dates are decided upon.



Riders get familiar with their bikes as class begins.

Fletcher Landmark Trail Project Complete

Adapted from Lincoln.ne.gov press release published on December 05, 2024

Mayor Leirion Gaylor Baird and Maggie Stuckey-Ross, Parks and Recreation Director, today said the completion of the Fletcher Landmark Trail will enhance mobility, safety, and connectivity for community members in northwest Lincoln.

“The benefits the trails provide for our health, transportation options, and quality of life are why the City of Lincoln has long prioritized excellent and equitable access to our trails system.” Mayor Gaylor Baird said. “As our city grows, we must ensure that our trails system grows with it and continues to make Lincoln the quality-of-life capital of the country. We are proud that today 95% of Lincoln residents live within one mile of a public trail.”

The 1.2-mile Fletcher Landmark Trail travels along the south side of Fletcher Avenue between North 14th and North 27th streets. The project cost nearly \$1.6 million and used Federal

Transportation Alternatives Program funds and local impact fee dollars. Construction on the 10-foot-wide concrete trail began in March.

Director Stuckey-Ross said the trail is important because North Lincoln continues to grow with commercial development, North Star High School, and new residential areas. This trail extension increases the total amount of Lincoln trails to 184 miles and brings 1,920 additional residential units within one mile of the city’s multi-use trails system.

City Council member, Brodey Weber said the Fletcher Trail project represents another City infrastructure investment that makes a meaningful impact on daily life in northwest Lincoln.

“This project embodies what we mean when we talk about a community that works for everyone – a place where investments in safety, health, and accessibility come together to improve our lives,” Weber said.

For more information and project updates, visit lincoln.ne.gov/trails.

2024 In-Progress Trail Projects

- **Beal Slough Trail** - Final Design - Est Construction 2025/2026
- **Chris Beutler Trail** - Final Design - Est Construction 2025
- **Rock Island Trail Widening** - Preliminary Design - Surveying starts 2024
- **Waterford Trail** - Preliminary Design - Surveying starts 2025
- **West “O” Sidepath** - Final Design - Est Construction 2025
- **West “A” St Sidepath** - Construction - Est Completion 2025
- **Rock Island Undercrossing at Old Cheney** - Preliminary Design - Surveying starts 2025
- **Salt Creek Levee Trail Resurfacing** - West “O” to Haymarket Park - Est. Construction 2025
- **Wilderness Park Projects**
 - **Cardwell Branch Crossing** - Complete
 - **Rock Island + Salt Creek Bridge** - Construction - Est Opening 2024
 - **Rokeby Rd Pedestrian Bridge South Loop** - Complete

REGISTRATION OPEN FOR THE 2025 LINCOLN TRAIL-A-THON!



Take on the challenge to ride, run, jog, or walk 92 miles of Lincoln’s scenic trails in 2025. This year-long event is designed to keep Lincoln moving and healthy while enjoying our incredible trails system. Plus, a portion of your entry fee directly supports the Great Plains Trails Network’s efforts to expand and enhance local trails.

Participants will receive a Lincoln Trail-A-Thon sign-up gift to help tackle the trails in every season. Complete all 92 miles by December 31, 2025, and you’ll be entered for a chance to win the grand prize—a Lincoln staycation!

Not sure where to start? We’ve created monthly route suggestions to guide your progress.

Visit gptn.org/lincolntrailathon to learn more.

Will 2025 be your year to conquer the Trail-A-Thon?



Congratulations

to the 2024 Trail-A-Thon participants that completed all 92 miles of trails.

(As of November 30, 2024)

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| Daryl Bohac | Dean Eisenhauer | Ruthann Nahorny |
| Barb Bohaty | Amber Fader | Ken Stephan |
| Phil Bohaty | Karen Griffin | Douglas Vander Broek |
| Wendy Bonaiuto | Richard Hekl | Donna Williams |
| Janet Brandt | Dale Minter | David Wood |

Event CALENDAR

FEBRUARY

8 GPTN Annual Meeting

MAY

1 Tour de Lincoln

8 Tour de Lincoln

15 Tour de Lincoln

22 Tour de Lincoln

29 Tour de Lincoln (Rain date)

JUNE

21 Trail Trek Packet Pick-up at AULD

22 Trail Trek

Check the LTC Website for the 2025 Calendar and other information.
lincolnrun.org



Support Lincoln's Trails

By donating to the Great Plains Trails Network through the:



www.givenebraska.org/

GPTN Receives Community Grant from Open Harvest



In November, The Great Plains Trails Network received a Community Grant of \$750 from Open Harvest Co-op Grocery. The grant is to be used for GPTN's mission to help support the Lincoln trails community.



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Support **GPTN** Through Qualified Charitable Distributions

BY TEDDE TAEGE

Using Required Minimum Distributions for Charitable Purposes

As individuals approach retirement, managing finances becomes increasingly important. One strategy that has gained popularity is using Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs) from retirement accounts for charitable purposes. This approach not only fulfills the mandatory withdrawal requirements but also provides significant tax benefits and supports charitable causes.

Understanding Required Minimum Distributions (RMDs)

RMDs are the minimum amounts that retirees must withdraw annually from their retirement accounts, such as traditional IRAs, 401(k)s, and other employer-sponsored plans, starting at age 73. The purpose of RMDs is to ensure that individuals eventually pay taxes on their retirement savings. Failure to withdraw the required amount can result in substantial penalties.

Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs)

A Qualified Charitable Distribution (QCD) is a direct transfer of funds from an IRA, payable to a qualified charity. QCDs can be counted toward satisfying your RMD for the year, up to a limit of \$105,000 per year. For married couples, each spouse can make a QCD of up to \$105,000 from their own IRA, potentially doubling the tax-free charitable contributions. Uniquely, QCDs can be executed at age 70½ allowing for charitable sharing of assets several years before the legally mandated RMDs kick in.

For a QCD to count toward your minimum annual IRA distribution, it must be made by the same deadline as a normal distribution, which is usually Dec. 31 of the tax year in question.

Benefits of Using RMDs for Charitable Giving

1. **Tax Advantages:** One of the primary benefits of QCDs is the tax advantage. Normally, RMDs are included in your

taxable income. However, QCDs are excluded from taxable income, which can lower your adjusted gross income (AGI) and potentially reduce the impact on other tax items, such as Social Security benefits and Medicare premiums.

2. **Simplicity:** QCDs simplify the process of charitable giving. The funds are transferred directly from your IRA to the charity, eliminating the need for you to handle the money and ensuring that the donation is tax-free.
3. **Support for Charitable Causes:** Using RMDs for charitable purposes allows retirees to support causes they care about without affecting their cash flow. This can be particularly beneficial for those who do not need the RMD funds for living expenses.

How to Make a QCD

1. **Eligibility:** Ensure you are eligible to make a QCD. You must be at least 70½ years old at the time of the distribution and have funds in a traditional IRA, inherited IRA, inactive Simplified Employee Pension (SEP) plan or inactive Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees (SIMPLE) IRAs
2. **Choose a Qualified Charity:** The charity must be a 501(c)(3) organization eligible to receive tax-deductible contributions. Private foundations and donor-advised funds do not qualify.

3. **Direct Transfer:** The distribution must be made directly from the IRA to the charity. If the funds are transferred to you first, they will be considered taxable income. To accomplish the direct transfer, have your retirement plan administrator mail the QCD directly to Great Plains Trails Network; PO Box 82902; Lincoln, NE 68501-2902.
4. **Documentation:** Keep records of the QCD, including a receipt from the charity and the Form 1099-R from your IRA trustee, which will report the distribution.
5. **Reporting:** Report the distribution on the appropriate line when filing taxes. An example for QCDs from IRAs would be reported on IRS Form 1040 with the full amount on the IRA distribution line and the taxable amount would have \$0 with QCD written next to it.

Using RMDs for charitable purposes through QCDs is a strategic way to manage retirement funds, reduce taxable income, and support charitable organizations. By understanding the rules and benefits, retirees can make informed decisions that align with their financial goals and philanthropic interests.

If you have any questions or need further guidance on making a QCD, consulting with a financial advisor or tax professional is recommended.



BICYCLING COLN™

BicycLincoln is a community group that supports and promotes bicycling in the city of Lincoln. Our mission is to provide information and a unified voice for bicycle advocacy in an effort to make cycling in Lincoln more friendly, safe, easy, accepted, and “so that more people bike and bike more often”.

Check them out at
bicyclincoln.org/



BIKE WALK NEBRASKA

Bike Walk Nebraska cultivates and supports safe and accessible active transportation across our state by leading sound policy and advocating for best practices. We work across sectors in partnership with elected officials, municipalities, and organizations to ensure that biking and walking - whether for transportation or recreation - works for all Nebraskans.

Become a member at:
www.bikewalknebraska.org



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LOWER PLATTE SOUTH NRD

Keep adventuring on
 the LPSNRD trails!

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 OAK CREEK
 HOMESTEAD**

lpsnrd.org/trails



Ride. Share.

That's what the Great Plains Bike Club is all about. We actively promote bicycling with rides for all levels of riders in and around Southeastern Nebraska.

Weekly rides with a leader | Show 'n go rides
 Ice cream & coffee shop rides | Moon-lit rides
 Hammering training rides | Trail rides

We sponsor the Spring Fling ride in April and Heatstroke 100 in August. We also promote bicycling safety through community-sponsored events. For more information and an on-line application to join the club, go to greatplainsbikeclub.org.



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Standard \$10

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Barb Kortum
Michael & Carol Laughlin
Bob Mancuso
Jim Muggy
Monte & Penny Pueppke
Kevin & Channe Slepicka
George Voigtlander
Pam Whisenhunt

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Dennis & Joan Clare
Larry Cook
Joseph & Jenny Dauer
Richard & Shirley Draper
Mark & Barb Engler
Sue & Scott Gardner
Jon Hanseling
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Adam Prochaska
Donna & Robert Rau
Hal & Cher Smith
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Monica Vandergriend
Ken & Peggy Volker
Yingying Wang
JJ Yost

Trail Sustainer \$50

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Gary & Cara Bentrup
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Michael & Sarah Cameron
Judith DeGraff
Gerald & Kit Dimon,
Marcia Dority
Bruce Eckhardt
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Debbie & Randy Kinney
Jane & Jack McVay
Cody & Julie Ramel
Mike & Peggy Rasmussen
Linda & Mark Robison
Bryan Seck
Ken Stephan
Ken Vice
Michael & Jane Voorhies
Jane & Ron Wasserman
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Trail Benefactor \$250

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Judy Boucher
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Jason Davis
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GPTN

How GPTN Membership and Donations Differ

To pay GPTN membership fees, please complete the membership form found on our website (gptn.org) and submit it with payment either online or via US mail. Membership fees support GPTN administrative costs. Surplus will be directed to the GPTN General Fundraising account. All membership fees are tax deductible. **Each membership is allowed one vote at the annual meeting as well as certain member discounts on GPTN events.**

To make donations to GPTN, please designate the specific project for which the donation is intended. If no specific project is designated, donations will be deposited in the GPTN General Fundraising account. One hundred percent of GPTN donations are allocated to projects approved by the GPTN Board of Directors. All donations are tax deductible. **Donors are not considered members of GPTN unless they also pay a separate membership fee.**



Great Plains Trails Network

P.O. Box 82902 • Lincoln, NE 68501-2902

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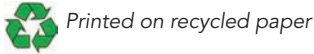
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The [GPTN Newsletter](#) is published quarterly and is distributed to GPTN members and other interested parties.

For more information:
www.gptn.org

GPTN Annual Meeting February 8

Details on page 3.



The MoPac Gap Has a Route!

MoPac Connect Trail

Route D for the MoPac East Connector Trail has been recently approved by the LPSNRD and Cass County Board of Commissioners and the project will now move into the design phase. While the State of Nebraska has allocated funds for the trail, additional funds will be necessary to construct the trail. Please consider donating and stay tuned for more information as the design work moves forward. *Thanks!*

Make contributions payable to:

Great Plains Trails Network

Name: _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Designated Project: _____

Mail to:

GPTN

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Lincoln, NE 68501-2902

